UNITED
NATIONS

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Security Council

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GENERAL

S/1998/423
26 May 1998

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 22 MAY 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF GEORGIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia regarding the recent development of events in Abkhazia, Georgia.

May I ask your kind assistance in having the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Peter CHKHEIDZE
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

98-14393 (E) 260598

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Annex

Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia on the situation in Abkhazia, Georgia

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia expresses its deep concern at the current development of events in Abkhazia, Georgia, namely in its Gali region.

Over the most recent period of time, crimes perpetrated in this region by the separatist regime have assumed an all the more ferocious character. Pogroms against the civilian population and hostage-taking, including of women and children, are continuous and systematic.

Just the fact of the execution of teenagers in front of their parents in April 1998 (S/1998/329) is more than enough to illustrate the cruelty with which the so-called Abkhaz militia carries out its operations.

The returnees, whose return to the region was brought about through international efforts, are growing conscious of the inevitability of defending themselves with arms, particularly in view of the flagging international control of the situation and with no conditions for the implementation of the decision of 28 April 1998 of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS)-Council of Heads of State on additional measures for the settlement of the conflict in Abkhazia, Georgia (S/1998/372).

The tension reached its climax on 19 and 20 May when the Georgian population of the villages of Sida, Repo-Etseri, Khumushkhuri and Zemo Bargebi were subjected to a full-scale punitive operation by a unit of some 300 heavily armed Abkhaz militia. Some civilians have been taken hostage and a number of houses ransacked, plundered and set on fire.

During the clashes, the separatists employed anti-aircraft weapons. The local population responded with armed resistance to the raiders. Casualties are reported on the both sides as a result.

Although the clashes have subsided, the situation remains highly precarious and tense. Eight hundred Abkhaz militiamen have been concentrated in the city of Gali, scaring innocent civilians out of their houses again.

The Ministry is gravely concerned at the calls of the so-called Parliament of Abkhazia to terminate the peacekeeping operation and to wage another genocide against the Georgian population. The well-contrived scheme of the Abkhaz side is first to provoke Georgian resistance and then to suppress it with bloody terror.

The Government of Georgia:

Strongly condemns any attempt to escalate the tension and to provoke violence, regardless of where it comes from, and reiterates its full commitment to the peaceful settlement of the conflict.

Calls on the Abkhaz side to use common sense and good judgement, recalling the perilous consequences of the armed confrontation, both for the welfare of the population of the region and the prospect of future economic reconstruction.

Expresses its readiness to renew, forthwith, the dialogue within the framework of the Geneva process under the auspices of the United Nations and with international participation, to intensify the bilateral meetings of the sides and to actively support the humanitarian and confidence-building efforts.

Expresses confidence that the Security Council will take the necessary measures to ensure the safety and normal functioning of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia, which will significantly contribute to putting an end to the impunity and to the reinvigoration of the peace process.

Expresses strong confidence that the Russian Federation, as facilitator, which at present is bearing the whole burden of the CIS peacekeeping operation, will make every effort to carry out its obligations and implement the decision of the CIS Council.

Appeals to the United Nations and the Security Council to continue their tireless efforts to achieve a comprehensive political settlement of the conflict in Abkhazia, Georgia.

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General Assembly
Security Council

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GENERAL

A/52/916
S/1998/424
26 May 1998

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-second session
Agenda items 10 and 81
REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE
WORK OF THE ORGANIZATION
MAINTENANCE OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-third year

Letter dated 24 May 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose the text of a letter addressed to you by Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif on the subject of the dangerous development of tensions in South Asia as a result of the nuclear tests and other provocative moves by India.

I would request that the present letter, and its annex, may be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 10 and 81, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ahmad KAMAL
Ambassador and
Permanent Representative

98-14373 (E) 260598

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ANNEX

Letter dated 23 May 1998 from the Prime Minister of Pakistan to the Secretary-General

I am sure that you have been following the developments in our region since the nuclear tests conducted by India on 11 and 13 May 1998.

Before the dust settled at Pokhran, the Indian nuclear test site, New Delhi raised demands that "Islamabad should realize the change in the geo-strategic situation in the region" and threatened that India will "deal firmly and strongly with Pakistan".

Thus it is clear that overt Indian nuclear weaponization has seriously upset the strategic balance in the region and emboldened India to make a naked assertion of her hostile intentions towards Pakistan.

In the background lie the two main planks of the agenda of the ruling Bharatia Janata Party (BJP). Long before it came to power the party has set for itself the goals of (1) overt nuclear weaponization and (2) resolution of the Kashmir problem by use of force. One has been accomplished; the other is now being actualized. The seriousness with which BJP has so far pursued its anti-Pakistan agenda leaves no room for complacency.

India's belligerency has assumed a chilling dimension with the threat of nuclear blackmail against Pakistan on Kashmir voiced by the Indian leadership.

On 20 May 1998, the Indian Home Minister stated that "we have decided to take action against Pakistan and to take a step forward to respond. Our nuclear explosion has created a situation similar to that caused after the fall of Dhaka". He further stated that Pakistan "will be crushed without false pity".

New Delhi feels secure in its belief that the work will signal the same helplessness towards her resort to use of force for a final resolution of the Kashmir problem as it has shown earlier in the face of overt Indian nuclear weaponization.

In pursuance of my policy for promotion of peace and stability in the region, I had taken an initiative for the resumption of dialogue with a view to achieving a peaceful solution of the Kashmir dispute and improvement of relations with India. The Indian leaders have, instead, responded with atomic tests and threatened to use nuclear weapons. Following upon that we are now faced with threats of provocative actions. This is in keeping with the Indian track record of aggression against Pakistan. Consequently, the tension in the region has escalated to an alarming proportion.

At this critical juncture I deem it necessary to draw your attention to the magnitude of the threat posed to our security by the aggressive Indian agenda.

(Signed) Muhammad Nawaz SHARIF

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General Assembly
Security Council

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GENERAL

A/53/128
S/1998/425
26 May 1998
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: RUSSIAN

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-third session
Item 35 of the preliminary list*
COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED
NATIONS AND THE ORGANIZATION
OF AFRICAN UNITY

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-third year

Letter dated 22 May 1998 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the message from the President of the Russian Federation, B. N. Yeltsin, to the Heads of State and Government and the peoples of Africa on the occasion of Africa Day (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the fifty-third session of the General Assembly, under item 35 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) S. LAVROV

* A/53/50.

98-14418 (E) 280598 280598

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ANNEX

Message from the President of the Russian Federation, B. N. Yeltsin, to the Heads of State and Government and the peoples of Africa on the occasion of Africa Day, 20 May 1998

On the occasion of Africa Day, a major political event for the whole continent, I send my warmest and most sincere congratulations to the Heads of State and Government and to the peoples of Africa.

The Russian Federation holds in high regard its traditional bonds of friendship with Africa. We note with great satisfaction the increasing role that African States are playing in world affairs and their contribution to international economic integration and to strengthening the universal security system.

This year's festivities are particularly important in light of the thirty-fifth anniversary of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), which will be celebrated on 25 May. The efforts of this all-Africa forum to prevent and settle conflicts and ensure sustainable development and prosperity for the whole continent have gained recognition in the world. I cannot fail to mention the role of OAU in solving serious humanitarian problems and the fruitful results of its activities in the areas of regional integration and progress towards an African economic community.

We welcome the transformations in African countries aimed at strengthening the democratic foundations of political life. These are being implemented in light of national and historical experience and are founded on the age-old wisdom of the peoples of the continent. But at the same time, they reflect the universally recognized principles of contemporary society, respect for human rights and freedom of political choice.

Russians are alarmed by the ethnic conflicts, the humanitarian crises, the natural disasters, the diseases and the forced displacement of hundreds of thousands of people which persist in Africa. It is the Russian Federation's resolute intent to continue to play an active part in the international community's efforts to provide African countries with comprehensive assistance in overcoming these adverse phenomena and in solving their urgent problems.

I wish to stress that, for the Russian Federation, close bonds with Africa are not just a glorious page in history: they are a reality today. We are firmly determined to increase cooperation with the States of the African continent in the most diverse areas, from politics to economics and culture.

I am sure that this openness on the part of the Russian Federation will continue to be perceived by our African partners in a spirit of friendship, trust and respect and that it will be embodied in practical cooperation.

I wish the peoples of Africa happiness, prosperity and success on their road to all-round development, in the conviction that Africa will enter the twenty-first century stable and flourishing.

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General Assembly
Security Council

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A/52/917
S/1998/426
26 May 1998

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-second session
Agenda item 64
COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR-TEST-BAN TREATY

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-third year

Letter dated 17 May 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Mongolia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of the statement made by the spokesman of the Ministry of External Relations of Mongolia, in connection with the underground nuclear tests conducted by India on 11 and 13 May 1998 in Pokhran range.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 64, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Jargalsaikhany ENKHSAIKHAN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

98-14424 (E) 280598

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ANNEX

Statement issued on 14 May 1998 by the spokesman of the Ministry of External Relations of Mongolia

The spokesman of the Ministry of External Relations of Mongolia made the following statement in connection with the underground nuclear tests conducted by the Republic of India on 11 and 13 May 1998 in Pokhran range.

"Mongolia has always considered a comprehensive nuclear test ban to be of decisive importance for promoting nuclear disarmament and, in this spirit, it signed and ratified the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty.

"Mongolia deeply regrets that India has conducted nuclear tests at a time when the process of acceding to this Treaty by the countries of the world is gaining momentum and when all five nuclear Powers refrain from any nuclear testing".

UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1998/427
26 May 1998

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 26 MAY 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ERITREA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Subsequent to our two previous communications dated 14 and 19 May 1998 concerning the border crisis between Eritrea and Ethiopia, I have the honour to attach a document entitled "Basic facts on the present tension between Eritrea and Ethiopia", issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the State of Eritrea on 23 May 1998 in Asmara.

This document articulates the genesis of the border conflict that has developed into a crisis between my country, Eritrea, and the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, which has terribly saddened my Government.

I should be grateful if you would kindly circulate the present letter, its annex and the enclosure as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Haile MENKERIOS
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Basic facts on the present tension between Eritrea and Ethiopia

1. The present crisis in the relations between Eritrea and Ethiopia was triggered on 6 May 1997 by an unprovoked Ethiopian armed attack on Eritrean troops in south-western Eritrea. The fighting that ensued resulted in Eritrea bringing under its control the large swaths of its south-western territory that Ethiopia had been occupying. Eritrean troops involved in the fighting stopped at Eritrea's borders and did not infringe on Ethiopian territory.

2. The unprovoked attack of 6 May was the latest in a long string of violations by Ethiopia of Eritrean territory and sovereignty as well as of the understanding between the two countries to maintain the status quo on the borders pending a final agreement. Since these are too numerous to catalogue here, we will confine ourselves to the more recent and significant transgressions. Ten months ago, in July 1997, Ethiopian troops occupied the Adi Murug area of Bada, in eastern Eritrea, dismantled the Eritrean administration there and installed a new Ethiopian administration. A few days later, Ethiopian authorities forcibly evicted Eritrean farmers from villages in the vicinity of Badme in south-western Eritrea, saying that they had demarcated the area as Ethiopian territory. Eritrea protested to the Ethiopian Government asking it to reverse those infringements, carried out by force, but the Ethiopian authorities, who had created new facts on the ground, refused to heed Eritrea's call. These incursions have since continued, resulting in Ethiopian occupation of large tracts of land, particularly in south-western Eritrea.

3. The Ethiopian incursions were not isolated actions, as the Eritrean Government had initially thought. Indeed, they were part of an overall plan decided on at the highest levels to bring under Ethiopian control large swathes of Eritrean land that Ethiopia claimed. An official Ethiopian map of the Tigray region of Ethiopia (published in 1997), shows Ethiopian territorial ambitions inside the clearly demarcated international, colonial borders of Eritrea. (See attached map.)

4. Eritrea has not been fixated on the issue of its borders with Ethiopia. Firstly, Eritrea's borders with Ethiopia are among the most clearly defined colonial boundaries and Eritrea is confident that, if the need arises, it can secure its rights to its borders through peaceful and legal means. Secondly, in the light of the good relations that have existed between the two neighbours and their avowed objective of promoting regional integration, the Eritrean Government has believed that the issue of borders is of secondary significance and should not be allowed to obstruct the development of bilateral and regional cooperation. Consequently, Eritrea has consistently worked to resolve the tension arising from border issues quietly, peacefully and, as much as possible, bilaterally. It did not go public when Ethiopian troops occupied the Adi Murug area of Bada and forcibly evicted farmers from the Badme area, razing their dwellings and farms to the ground. It did not issue ultimatums or threaten all-out war, as the Ethiopian Government has now done. It simply called for the formation of a joint committee to resolve the issue on the basis of the international, colonial borders between the two countries. Eritrea's restraint,

however, only encouraged the Ethiopian authorities, who might have misinterpreted it for weakness or lack of resolve, to push on with their flagrant violations of Eritrean sovereignty.

5. In light of the above, Ethiopia's reaction to the more recent developments has been inexplicable and extremely dangerous. It has threatened war unless Eritrea withdraws unconditionally from territories it legitimately brought back under its control. Virtually the entire Ethiopian army has been brought to Eritrea's borders. Meanwhile, the Ethiopian media is waging an inflammatory campaign, inciting hatred and confrontation. In a flashback to the old regime, calls are being made daily to "crush and annihilate the invading Eritrean army". Consistent with the war psychosis it is creating, Ethiopia has stopped Ethiopian airlines flights to Eritrea and the use of Eritrean ports, through which 90 per cent of its trade used to pass.

6. In a bid to justify its extremist and dangerous position, the Ethiopian Government has blown the situation out of all proportion and has resorted to a distortion of the issues and facts. It has centred its campaign on Badme, as if there are no other areas of tension. It has totally ignored the unprovoked attack of 6 May and the previous violations of Eritrean territory. The Ethiopian Foreign Minister went as far as alleging that the borders between the two countries are not delimited and demarcated and then went on to contradict himself by insisting that Eritrea had violated Ethiopian sovereignty in these same not delimited and demarcated areas.

7. The Ethiopian authorities have also intimated that the present difficulties are linked to the differences between the two countries over trade. There is absolutely no basis to these insinuations. While Eritrea, adopting a long-term perspective, had favoured more open trade and closer economic ties, the new arrangements preferred by the Ethiopian Government have not harmed the Eritrean economy in any way. Indeed they have come as a blessing in disguise, as they have unleased new initiatives and entrepreneurship in the Eritrean economy. It is also worth mentioning that the conjecture contained in press reports that the fighting might be linked to mineral deposits in the area where the incident has taken place is totally unfounded.

8. In stark contrast to the Ethiopian approach, Eritrea has responsibly striven to defuse the situation and pave a way for a peaceful, lasting solution. It has called for the renunciation of the use of force. It has also proposed the demilitarization of all areas of current tension and the resolution of the issue through the involvement of a third party and on the basis of respect for the international and colonial boundaries. The above points are incorporated in the following five-point proposal presented by the Eritrean Government on 14 May 1998:

> The Government of Eritrea condemns the logic of force as it firmly knows and upholds that border disputes of any kind can only be resolved through peaceful and legal means; and not through military means.

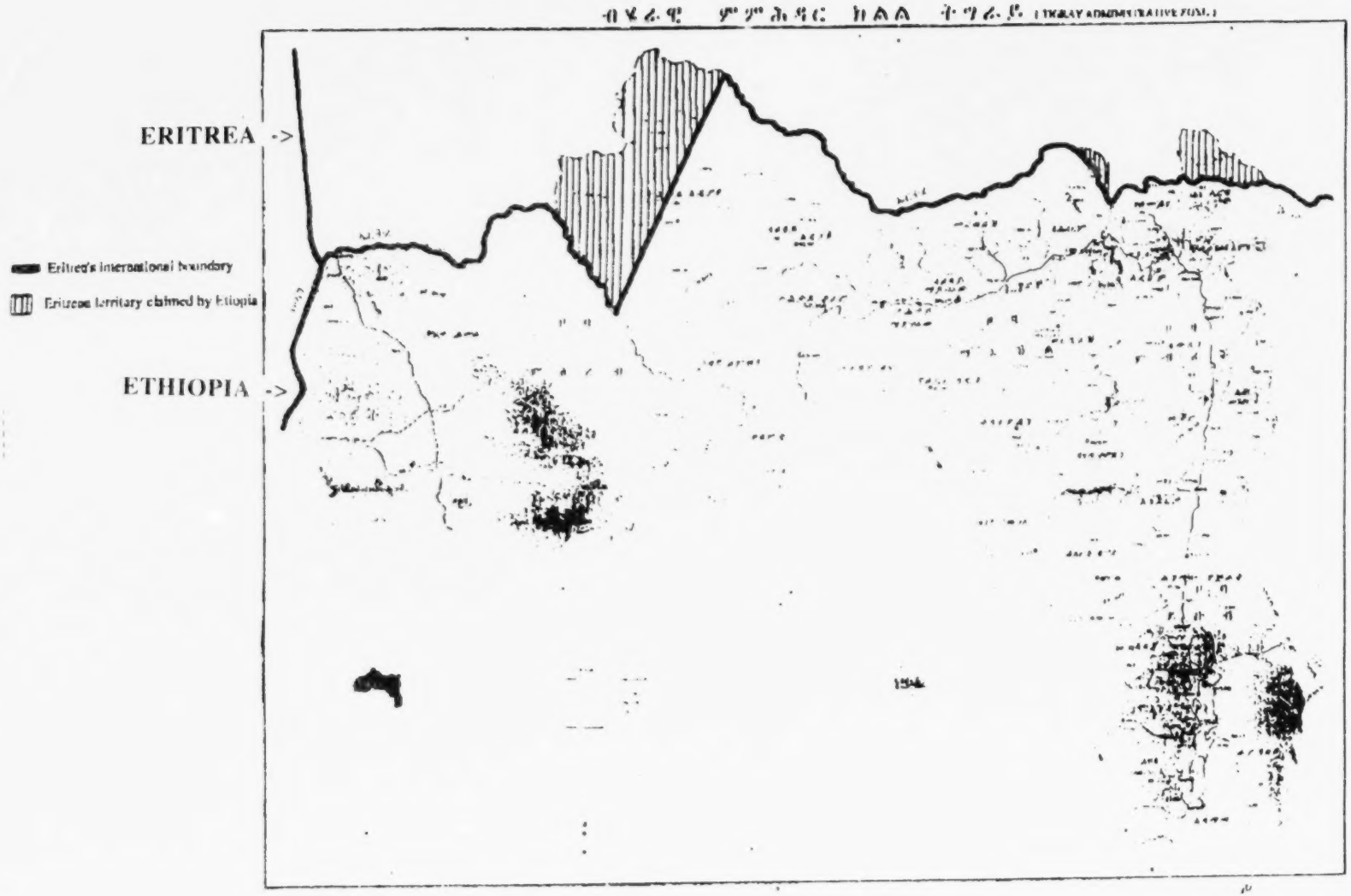
On the basis of this principle, each party shall publicly announce to the peoples of Eritrea, Ethiopia and the international community the territories that it claims - if any - and designate them on the political map with clear geographical coordinates. Each party shall also accept that the dispute cannot, and should not, be resolved by force, but through peaceful negotiations.

Both parties shall agree that all negotiations and understandings shall be carried out in the presence and through the mediation of a third party. The latter will act as witness and guarantor.

Areas under "dispute" shall be demilitarized temporarily and be free from the presence of armies of both countries. The enforcement of this understanding shall be guaranteed by the third party.

If the above proposal for resolving the dispute through the involvement of a third party and without complications is not acceptable, the matter shall be referred to international adjudication.

9. The Eritrean Government has welcomed and cooperated without reservation with the initiatives undertaken by friends and concerned parties to defuse the crisis and to facilitate a lasting solution. It will continue to do so until the problem is resolved.


ERITREA ->
ETHIOPIA ->
Eritrea's international boundary
Eritrean territary claimed by Ethiopia

UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

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GENERAL

S/1998/428
26 May 1998

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 20 MAY 1998 FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to refer to Security Council resolution 1162 (1998) of 17 April 1998, by which the Security Council authorized the deployment to Sierra Leone of up to 10 United Nations military liaison and security advisory personnel in accordance with paragraph 44 of my report to the Council of 18 March 1998 (S/1998/249).

Following the usual consultations, I propose that India, Kenya, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Zambia be included in the list of countries contributing military personnel to the United Nations liaison team. In view of the need to initiate its activities as soon as possible, some members of the team have begun to arrive in Sierra Leone. The team leader is Brigadier-General Subhash Chand Joshi (India). The liaison officers are under the authority of my Special Envoy, Mr. Francis G. Okelo.

I should be grateful if you would bring this matter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(Signed) Kofi A. ANNAN

98-14449 (E) 260598

UNITED
NATIONS

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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1998/429
26 May 1998

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 26 MAY 1998 FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to inform you that your letter dated 20 May 1998 (S/1998/428) concerning your proposal to include India, Kenya, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Zambia in the list of countries contributing military personnel to the United Nations liaison team in Sierra Leone has been brought to the attention of the members of the Council. They agree with the proposal contained in your letter.

(Signed) Njuguna M. MAHUGU, OGW
President of the Security Council

98-14455 (E) 260598

UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

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S/1998/430
26 May 1998
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

LETTER DATED 24 MAY 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 24 May 1998 addressed to you by Mr. Mohammed Said Al-Sahaf, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, concerning the confirmation by British officials that British and United States forces used missiles containing depleted uranium during their aggression against Iraq. The Minister also makes clear the disastrous effects that the radiation and toxins released by these missiles have had on health and the environment in Iraq.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

98-14437 (E) 260598 260598

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Annex

Letter dated 24 May 1998 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to the Secretary-General

I wish to draw your attention to the recent further admission on 30 April 1998 by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland that British forces taking part in the aggression unleashed against Iraq in 1991 used missiles containing depleted uranium, in contravention of the Charter of the United Nations and of international agreements and conventions banning the use of excessively injurious or indiscriminate weapons. Mr. A. N. King, from the Middle East Department of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, said in response to a query from a humanitarian relief organization that, on the order of the Ministry of Defence, British tanks used missiles containing depleted uranium during the Gulf War. This new admission confirms previous admissions made by several British and United States official and unofficial sources that the allied forces led by the United States of America committed genocidal crimes for which they are accountable under international law.

Malcolm Rifkind, the former British Minister of Defence, also admitted in a letter dated 6 December 1994 addressed to British M.P. Sir David Steel that British forces had used 88 missiles containing depleted uranium during the aggression against Iraq, and that the United States had used many more. He also stated in the same letter that on impact such missiles discharge a highly toxic material, which constitutes a health threat. Scientific research and studies have found irrefutable evidence that the United States and Britain used depleted uranium in their military operations against Iraq, thereby exposing large tracts of Iraqi land to deadly radioactive contamination. A large number of previously unknown illnesses have been recorded, such as foetal malformations, bone deformities and unexplained conditions such as hair loss and strange diseases of the skin which have affected people in the areas that were bombarded by these missiles. Cases of child leukaemia have also increased.

Iraq raises this issue while reaffirming its legitimate right to fair compensation for the appalling damage caused to the Iraqi people, installations and environment through use of this weapon.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mohammed Said AL-SAHAF
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Iraq

UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1998/431
26 May 1998
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

LETTER DATED 22 MAY 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 22 May 1998 addressed to you by Mr. Mohammed Said Al-Sahaf, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, concerning statements made by a former United States Assistant Secretary of Defense. The statements call for security and stability in the region to be undermined, and they reveal the hostile intentions of the United States towards Iraq.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Letter dated 22 May 1998 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to the President of the Security Council

I should like to call your attention to statements made by Richard Perle, former United States Assistant Secretary of Defense, as reported by the Turkish weekly Aydınlık during May 1998. In those statements, particularly those relating to the replacement of the national regime, the partitioning of Iraq and the maintenance of the unjust embargo that has been imposed upon it, he confirms the political objectives of the United States and its hostile intentions towards my country.

In this connection, this United States official indicates that "the Saddam Hussein regime must be replaced". He explicitly announces the support of the United States for a new regime opposed to President Saddam Hussein and supported by those he terms "the opposition parties". This United States official urges the so-called "Iraqi opposition parties" to act against President Saddam Hussein and to liquidate President Saddam Hussein as soon as possible. He also calls for recognition of a provisional Iraqi government that exists only in the imagination of United States officials. In the context of this attempt only, he calls for the embargo to be lifted in what he terms the areas that President Saddam Hussein does not control and for their independence to be declared, for their economy to be strengthened and for their oil to flow onto world markets.

This United States official also states with shameless explicitness that the United States must support those he calls "the Iraqi opposition" and must do whatever is required for their sake. Perle says that United States legal guarantees must be provided to the clients of the United States that he terms "the Iraqi opposition", that weapons must be supplied and that a foreign air force must be formed to protect what he terms the areas that President Saddam Hussein does not control.

The former Assistant Secretary of Defense also confirms the declared United States policy with regard to the unjust embargo imposed on Iraq when he says that the embargo against Iraq must continue despite the fact that it is not sufficient to solve the problem and that the United States is continuing its policy of isolation and of maintaining the embargo. He adds that the shortest way to the lifting of the embargo is the liquidation of President Saddam Hussein as soon as possible and that, as long as the Saddam Hussein regime continues, the embargo policy will be maintained as a means of exerting pressure.

These hostile and irresponsible statements are a true expression of the enmity of the United States Administration to Iraq and of its contempt for the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations, which are to be regarded as the mainstay of the system of collective international security. They are manifestly incompatible with the relevant resolutions of the Security Council, all of which stress respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of Iraq. These statements also reflect the fact that the

sanctions regime imposed on Iraq in August 1990 was designed to achieve questionable United States objectives against Iraq.

These statements confirm that the reasons for the unjust embargo imposed on Iraq almost eight years ago do not relate to the argument that Iraq must be free of prohibited weapons or to other factors. They are purely political reasons and they relate to the dubious endeavour of the United States of America to introduce a clique made up of its clients in order to govern Iraq.

To make such statements in a country that is adjacent to Iraq is a clear incitement to a neighbouring State to engage in aggression against Iraq and to undermine security and stability in the region with a view to achieving the same hostile United States objectives.

The Government of the Republic of Iraq calls upon the Security Council to condemn the United States policy of hostility to Iraq and to intervene with the Government of the United States of America with a view to halting the policy of intimidation and incitement against a Member State and founding Member of the United Nations. It urges you to meet your responsibility to counter these actions, which are in breach of international law and the Charter of the United Nations, as they relate to the principles that should guarantee respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of Iraq.

I request circulation of this letter as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mohammed Said AL-SAHAF
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Iraq

UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

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GENERAL

S/1998/432
26 May 1998

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 26 MAY 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF GEORGIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Allow me once again to bring to your attention the recent tragic events that have taken place in the Gali region of Abkhazia, Georgia.

Already-concluded peace agreements, decisions taken by the Security Council and by other international and regional organizations have practically been brought to nothing.

Undermined are the efforts of the United Nations, yearning to intensify the peace negotiations through the Geneva process and to reinforce the monitoring control system on the ground.

All these efforts have run up against a well-organized force, which had painstakingly worked to prepare a fertile soil for destabilization.

Operations carried out by the armed Abkhaz units, intending ostensibly to crack down on alleged bandits, were followed by relentless killings, hostage-taking and raids against innocent civilians.

The returnees were confronted by the inevitability of putting up their own defence, which had intensified the clashes.

The impunity assumed greater dimensions after the United Nations observers had been compelled to reduce their activities.

In April 1998, the situation in the Gali region became especially tense. On 19 and 20 May 1998, armed with heavy armaments and artillery, the Abkhaz military units accomplished massive attacks on the villages of the region, killing innocent civilians and setting on fire houses that had been restored with the help of international humanitarian organizations.

In the face of these developments, on 22 May 1998, under the chairmanship of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Liviu Bota, the meeting of the Coordinating Council was held in Tbilisi, where the Georgian and Abkhaz sides signed an agreement on a ceasefire.

However, on 22 to 23 May, the Abkhaz side made one more attempt to introduce fresh armed units and heavy armament into the Gali region. At that point, the interference of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) peacekeepers averted the massacre of the Georgian population.

The Government of Georgia has made every effort and is doing everything possible to localize the conflict.

On 24 May 1998, the Special Representative of the President of Georgia on the issues related to Abkhazia met with Mr. Vladislav Ardzinba in Sukhumi. The Protocol on the Cessation of Military Operations was signed as a result.

Despite the steps taken, on 24 May 1998, the Abkhaz separatists carried out a large-scale military operation in the security zone, using grenade launchers, artillery and heavy armaments, targeting civilians and their houses.

Hundreds of civilians are reported dead and the villages of the Gali region levelled to earth. The renewed ethnic cleansing has already prompted the exodus of thousands of people. By means of armed repression the separatists have accomplished their plans: they have expelled more than 30,000 returnees, whose return to their homes had been brought about by the efforts and persistence of international organizations. The Geneva process is now stalled and the issue of the functioning of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG) is under question.

Despite the tireless efforts of the world forum, the situation has critically deteriorated. As I already mentioned, the Georgian population is subjected to ethnic cleansing and the CIS peacekeepers have so far been unable to prevent the carnage.

The results of the ethnic cleansing would have been far more serious if not for the protection units of the local population, who have presented resistance to the raiders and have saved the population from massive extermination.

Although both sides have signed the Protocol on the Cessation of Military Operations, effective 6 a.m., 26 May 1998, the punitive operation has not yet been stopped. We believe that the current events, if not handled with great care and attention, are fraught with the most serious consequences for the whole Caucasian region.

The international community must make it clear that it will not tolerate the mass murder of innocent civilians and the gross violations of human rights. We firmly believe that the Security Council should urgently make a decision with regard to the resettlement of recently expelled returnees and their humanitarian assistance.

We are confident that the time has come to acknowledge that this conflict may threaten international peace and security, which will allow us to act in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations.

May I ask your kind assistance in having the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Peter CHKHEIDZE
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1998/433
28 May 1998
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH AND FRENCH

Draft resolution

The Security Council,

Recalling the statement of its President of 25 September 1997 (S/PRST/1997/46),

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General of 13 April 1998 submitted to the General Assembly (A/52/871) and to the Security Council (S/1998/318) in accordance with the above-mentioned statement,

Fully supporting the engagement of the United Nations in Africa through its diplomatic, peacekeeping, humanitarian, economic development and other activities,

Reaffirming the principles of political independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of all States,

Reaffirming also the obligation of all Member States to settle their disputes by peaceful means and stressing its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling the provisions of Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations on regional arrangements,

Mindful of the Cairo Declaration of 1993 (A/48/322, annex II), which stipulated that the Organization of African Unity (OAU) Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution would have as a primary objective the anticipation and prevention of conflicts,

Recognizing that the adoption of the African Nuclear Weapons Free Zone Treaty (A/50/426), declaring Africa a Nuclear Weapons Free Zone, is an important contribution to the promotion of regional peace and security, and to global efforts towards nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament,

Gravely concerned that the continuation of armed conflicts in the continent threatens regional peace, causes massive human displacement, suffering and

poverty, perpetuates instability and diverts scarce resources from long-term development,

Recognizing the importance of the commitment of the United Nations through its Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and other United Nations agencies and of humanitarian organizations to assist the efforts of African States to address humanitarian and refugee crises in accordance with international law, including international humanitarian law,

Stressing the close linkage between international peace and security and sustainable development,

Noting that African States have made significant strides towards democratization, economic reform, and respect for and protection of human rights and stressing the importance of promoting political stability, peace and sustainable development,

Stressing the importance of promoting good governance, the rule of law and sustainable development as essential factors in the prevention of conflicts in Africa,

Expressing concern that the use of mercenaries and presence of armed militias continues to contribute to instability in Africa,

Emphasizing the destabilizing effects of the illicit transfer of arms, especially small arms, and urging Governments concerned to combat the trafficking of such weapons,

1. Welcomes the report of the Secretary-General of 13 April 1998 and the comprehensive recommendations contained therein, and commends the Secretary-General for his efforts to address the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa, and for the steps he is taking to reinforce the role of the United Nations system towards these ends;

2. Stresses that the challenges in Africa demand a comprehensive response and, in this context, expresses the hope that the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, other relevant bodies of the United Nations, regional and subregional organizations, international financial institutions and other relevant organizations, as well as Member States will consider the report and its recommendations and take action as they deem appropriate within their respective areas of competence;

3. Notes the important role of the Secretary-General in coordinating the work of the United Nations agencies concerned in the implementation of the recommendations in his report, and requests the Secretary-General to keep the Council regularly informed of the efforts being undertaken by the agencies and other bodies of the United Nations system in this regard;

4. Decides to establish an ad hoc Working Group, comprised of all members of the Council, for a period of six months, to review all recommendations in the report related to the maintenance of international peace and security, in

accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, and in that context, to prepare a framework for the implementation of recommendations, as appropriate, and to submit specific proposals for concrete action for consideration by the Council by September 1998;

5. Expresses its intention to convene at the ministerial level on a biennial basis, beginning in September 1998 and subsequently as needed in order to assess progress in promoting peace and security in Africa;

6. Stresses the importance of appropriate consultations and cooperation between the United Nations and the OAU on the follow-up to the report;

7. Welcomes the important contributions of the OAU to conflict prevention and resolution in Africa, including its Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution, as well as those of subregional arrangements;

8. Welcomes also the efforts made by Member States, regional organizations and the United Nations to enhance the capacity of African States to contribute to peacekeeping operations in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations;

9. Invites Member States and regional organizations to provide assistance to the OAU Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution to enhance its capacity in the anticipation and prevention of conflicts;

10. Encourages the Secretary-General to continue to take concrete actions aimed at enhancing the OAU capacity to anticipate and prevent conflicts in Africa, on the basis of the United Nations-Organization of African Unity Cooperation Agreement of 15 November 1965;[1]

11. Decides to remain actively seized of the matter.

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[1] 548 UNTS, p. 316.

UNITED
NATIONS

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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1998/434
28 May 1998

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE UNITED NATIONS CIVILIAN POLICE MISSION IN HAITI

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to Security Council resolution 1141 (1997) of 28 November 1997, in which the Council requested me to report on the implementation of the mandate of the United Nations Civilian Police Mission in Haiti (MIPONUH) every three months from the date of the adoption of the resolution. The report covers the activities of MIPONUH and developments in the mission area since my report of 20 February 1998 (S/1998/144).

II. POLITICAL SITUATION

2. The institutional crisis of which I informed the Security Council in my previous report (S/1998/144) has persisted, crippling both the executive and legislative branches of Government. Haiti has now been without a Prime Minister since June 1997 and with a virtually paralysed Parliament since January 1998.

3. In the past three months, there have been efforts aimed at breaking the deadlock between the principal factions of what used to be known as the Lavalas movement, but these have been largely unsuccessful. At the end of February, there appeared to be a breakthrough in negotiations between the Organisation du peuple en lutte (OPL) and the anti neo-liberal blocs in Parliament, which seemed to have agreed on a joint political, economic and social programme on the basis of which a new Prime Minister could be ratified. However, differences subsequently arose over the election and composition of the bureau of the Chamber of Deputies and the negotiations ended in failure.

4. The OPL later proposed three candidates for the post of Prime Minister: a former Prime Minister, Mr. Smarck Michel; the former Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Gérard Mathurin; and the former Ambassador of Haiti to the United States of America, Mr. Jean Casimir. With respect to the procedure for the nomination of a Prime Minister, the OPL claimed that the President had to negotiate with the political forces in Parliament before announcing his nominee, so as to ensure that the latter would muster the necessary support in Parliament. President René Préval maintained, on the contrary, that it was the Prime Minister's responsibility to negotiate his programme during the period between

his ratification by the majority of the members present in each Chamber and the vote of confidence on his programme, which requires an absolute majority.

5. After consulting the presidents of the two Chambers of Parliament, as constitutionally required, but without reaching a political agreement with the OPL, which holds a relative majority in Parliament, on 22 March 1998 President Préval again nominated Mr. Hervé Denis (see S/1998/144, para. 4). The President's decision was welcomed by a number of popular organizations and large segments of civil society, but was denounced by the OPL leadership as a provocation. Despite the strong opposition of the OPL, the Chamber of Deputies ratified the choice of Mr. Denis on 7 April 1998. The Senate, however, narrowly rejected it on 15 April, 8 senators out of 16 voting in favour of Mr. Denis.

6. The lack of explicit constitutional arrangements regarding the replacement of the President in the absence of a Prime Minister was again highlighted when the President appointed the Minister of the Interior as caretaker during his absence from Haiti in mid-April 1998. Since his return to Haiti, President Préval has held consultations with the political parties represented in Parliament, including the OPL. As this report was being prepared, discussions were continuing on a four-point agenda presented by the OPL to resolve the crisis. Much hope has been placed on the outcome of these discussions, both in Haiti where the population is weary of the crisis and in the international community, which attaches great importance to the establishment of a Government that will, among other responsibilities, have to lead the country to the next legislative and local elections and ensure their credibility.

7. The institutional crisis was further manifested in the controversial Provisional Electoral Council (CEP), which has continued to operate at reduced capacity following the resignation of six of its nine members in November 1997 and the death of one of the remaining three in April 1998. The image of the Electoral Council has been further tarnished by in-fighting among its members and by a financial scandal. In this context, one of the counsellors was relieved of his duties as Treasurer and the Cour des Comptes closed the CEP's bank accounts as it could not find sufficient evidence of accounting for its funds. The President of the CEP, Mr. Gérard Toussaint, appealed to President Préval to intervene to solve the problems confronting the institution. His call for the dissolution of the Electoral Council was criticized as partisan by some of his colleagues. Meanwhile, the Council's employees have been on strike. A broad consensus has now emerged for the installation of a new, credible and transparent Electoral Council as a precondition for the holding of the forthcoming elections. As to the Presidential Committee in support of the CEP (Commission présidentielle d'appui au Conseil électoral provisoire), which was established in October 1997 to report on the elections of 6 April 1997, it has just submitted its report to the President. So far, the report has not been made public.

8. The OPL and Lafanmi Lavalas have indicated that they want the legislative and local elections to take place by the end of the year, as provided by the Electoral Law. A loose coalition of 26 opposition groupings and parties has signed a declaration of principles calling for free and fair elections in which all political forces would participate. The electoral issue was also discussed

informally among a broad group of political leaders and representatives of civil society at the second inter-Haitian meeting sponsored by the International Peace Academy, which was held at Princeton, New Jersey, in March.

9. The Friends of the Secretary-General for Haiti have indicated their Governments' readiness to provide electoral assistance, including logistical support and contribution to voter awareness programmes, but cautioned that they will not become fully involved unless the Haitians themselves agree on an Electoral Council that will give a reasonable assurance of the integrity and credibility of the electoral process. According to the Electoral Law, such an electoral council would have to initiate the call for elections, which would need to be endorsed by a Government decree signed by the Prime Minister.

10. Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations Bernard Miyet visited Haiti from 6 to 9 May 1998 to evaluate the progress of MIPONUH and to hold consultations with political leaders and representatives of civil society in the context of the continuing political impasse. With all his interlocutors, the Under-Secretary-General stressed the deep concern of the international community about the crisis and the need to have properly functioning institutions, as well as timely elections, for the advancement of democracy in the country and its economic development. He urged the Haitian leaders to reach a compromise through dialogue and expressed the willingness of the international community to help ensure the transparency and credibility of the electoral process.

11. It is heartening to note that, notwithstanding the long political crisis, the secure and stable environment established in Haiti under previous United Nations peacekeeping missions has held since the termination of the mandate of the United Nations Transition Mission in Haiti on 30 November 1997 and the subsequent establishment of MIPONUH. While there have been some incidents, such as the civil disturbances in Limonade and Milot in March 1998, these do not appear to reflect any specific pattern of unrest or politically motivated violence.

III. DEPLOYMENT AND OPERATIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS CIVILIAN POLICE MISSION IN HAITI

12. It will be recalled that, in establishing MIPONUH, the Security Council decided that the new mission should be composed of up to 300 civilian police officers, including a 90-strong special police unit deployed along with the necessary support personnel, to continue to assist the Government of Haiti by supporting and contributing to the professionalization of the Haitian National Police. As at 20 May 1998, the civilian police element of MIPONUH included 285 officers from Argentina, Benin, Canada, France, India, Mali, the Niger, Senegal, Togo, Tunisia and the United States of America (see annex). In order to respond to the increasing need for specialized expertise, MIPONUH has increased the number of civilian police officers advising on matters of drug control, judicial police and environmental matters.

13. While the special police unit is based in Port-au-Prince, the substantive police element is deployed in the capital and throughout the nine départements. Officers belonging to the substantive element have continued their mission of

monitoring the performance of National Police members on the job and of providing training and counselling to higher-level officers.

14. Increasingly, the substantive police element's activities are coordinated with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and bilateral programmes such as those of Canada and the United States of America. On the initiative of Haitian National Police, UNDP sponsored a seminar on 19 and 20 March which was specifically dedicated to the integration and coordination of police training activities and in which the National Police, MIPONUH, UNDP and representatives of relevant entities took part. The seminar served to elaborate further the existing strategy for technical assistance among the various entities. An evaluation mission assessing the capacity of the UNDP technical assistance programme to the National Police, which operates under the joint auspices of MIPONUH and the UNDP Country Office, confirmed the successful inter-agency cooperation in this regard. With a view to complementing technical assistance with material support, MIPONUH has identified the following priority areas: continued police station renovations and procurement of equipment, such as patrol craft for drug control operations and spare parts for previously donated police vehicles. In that regard, the mission has formulated a project proposal with the Director of Logistics of the National Police for joint implementation.

IV. HAITIAN NATIONAL POLICE

15. During the visit of the Under-Secretary-General (see para. 10 above), it was evident that political leaders and representatives of civil society unanimously agreed that the Haitian National Police had continued to progress in discharging its responsibilities. My Representative in Haiti and Head of MIPONUH, Mr. Julian Harston, publicly expressed his satisfaction with the performance of the police during the carnival festivities in February 1998, and favourable comments have largely outweighed criticism in the public debate on the police. Both Secretary of State for Security Robert Manuel and Director-General of the Haitian National Police Pierre Denizé expressed appreciation for the cooperation between MIPONUH and the National Police. They emphasized that there would be a continuing need for the professionalization and training of the National Police, with the continued assistance of the international community, beyond the expiry of the mandate of MIPONUH in November 1998.

16. During the period under review, there were significant personnel changes within the Directorate of the Haitian National Police with a view to improving the credibility of the National Police. In addition, some 150 new policemen began their training in February at the Police Academy, and another 350 are expected to join later, to bring the strength of the police force above 6,700. It will be recalled that in view of the inability of National Police officers to reach outlying areas, President Préval and the Director-General had announced plans to establish a rural police force to complement the National Police (see S/1998/144, para. 21). The possible creation of a rural police force was the subject of further discussions among the Haitian authorities. Some concern has been voiced at the fact that these policemen would be less well qualified and less well paid than regular members of the National Police and at the risks of political pressure on such a force, in the initial selection of which the local government authorities (collectivités territoriales) would be involved.

17. Calls for a police strike provoked by an extension of police work schedules from 8 to 12 hours resulted in "go-slow" activities by the Haitian National Police in various parts of the country early in April. The action was called off when effective mediation by the Directorate of the National Police with dissatisfied police officers led the latter to accept assurances that the measure would be of a temporary nature, until such time as new recruitment would allow for restoration of regular schedules.

18. While effective, National Police involvement in restoring public security during civil unrest in Limonade and Milot in March gave rise to concern that there had been some excessive use of force, including the ransacking of a radio station. The International Civilian Mission (MICIVIH) of the Organization of American States (OAS) and the United Nations issued a statement criticizing the heavy-handed nature of the operation in Milot, and both President Préval and Director-General Denizé went on record saying that inappropriate police conduct would not be tolerated and that rogue policemen would be removed from the force as part of the ongoing épuration programme. The incidents underlined the relevance of a previous MICIVIH recommendation for the appointment of a special magistrate to carry out investigations whenever the police are accused of serious abuses.

19. Among the successful efforts of the Haitian National Police over the last three months are high-profile anti-gang operations, including against drug-related crime. Drug seizures at the airport have yielded more than 650 kilograms of cocaine, which were discovered on four separate occasions. Anti-drug activities have further been enhanced by the Office of the Special Advisor on Drugs in the Ministry of Justice. Furthermore, the visibility of the National Police in both the capital and the provinces has been enhanced further through increased patrolling activities. This stronger presence of the National Police in the day-to-day life of the Haitian citizenry is perceived as a positive development by the population.

V. JUSTICE SYSTEM

20. The Haitian authorities are pursuing their efforts to put into place a judicial reform strategy - an essential requirement for the development and the functioning of a society based on the rule of law. The modernization of the judiciary and improvements in the administration of justice are advancing very slowly, however. The Haitian legislature adopted the law on judicial reform on 7 April 1998. That law, which has not yet been promulgated, identifies some essential elements of judicial reform. It includes specific provisions concerning the fight against impunity and provides that all crimes and misdemeanours committed between 30 September 1991 and 15 October 1994 are imprescriptible, regardless of their magnitude. The Preparatory Commission for Legal and Justice Reform, which is charged with the coordination of a global reform plan, has not yet officially submitted its final report on a general policy.

21. While no date has yet been set for the trial against the perpetrators of the Raboteau massacre of April 1994, some initiatives have been taken for the preparation of the trial. Three experts in forensic anthropology visited Haiti

from 8 to 13 March, at the invitation of the Ministry of Justice and with the assistance of MICIVIH, with a view to applying methods of forensic anthropology to certain ongoing investigations.

22. The Office of the Ombudsman organized a seminar to review the accomplishments of the office since its inception last November and to assess opportunities for a widening of its mandate. Numerous national and international experts participated in the seminar, underscoring the importance of this new institution, regardless of its limited resources, in the efforts of the Haitian State to protect its citizens.

23. The first class of 60 students at the Ecole de la Magistrature graduated on 20 May after completing a 24-week training programme. The placement of the new judges has not yet been officially announced. Preparations for the selection and training of a new class have not been initiated.

VI. DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

24. According to a World Bank poverty assessment report published in April 1998, Haiti, with an annual per capita income of $250, remains the poorest country in the western hemisphere and one of the poorest in the world, with about 80 per cent of the rural population living in poverty. The report stresses that the situation, far from improving, has been deteriorating over the past decade, concomitant with a rate of decline in per capita gross national product of 5.2 per cent a year over the period 1985-1995. The limited statistics available point to what the Bank describes as a "shocking profile of social indicators". Life expectancy at birth is 57 years (compared with a Latin American average of 69), vaccination coverage for children is only 25 per cent, and only about one fourth of the population has access to safe drinking water. More than 50 per cent of the adult population are illiterate, while only about one child in five of secondary-school age actually attends secondary school.

25. The underlying causes of extreme poverty in Haiti identified in the Bank's report are (a) political instability, poor governance and corruption; (b) inadequate growth resulting from severe distortions at the macroeconomic level; (c) under-investment and poor quality expenditure on human capital; and (d) a "poverty trap" created by high unwanted fertility, environmental degradation, and physical insecurity. The remedies put forward to resolve these issues include (a) strengthening essential public sector institutions, improving coordination within government and re-establishing political stability; (b) strengthening macroeconomic stability to reduce distortions and encourage private sector investment; (c) improving the quality of government spending; and (d) rationalizing the assistance provided by external partners.

26. The United Nations Development Programme continues to play an important role in the Haitian transition process, both through its ongoing country programme activities and by virtue of the fact that its Resident Representative is the deputy to my Representative. The UNDP fifth-cycle country programme has recently been extended for two additional years owing to the absence of a stable institutional framework for formulating a new programme. The focus is on promoting good governance through support for the democratization process

(e.g., strengthening parliament, the electoral process, the justice system, law and order and the penitentiary), poverty eradication through grass-roots empowerment, and protection of the environment. Unfortunately, financial constraints have led to a sharp fall in the level of resources available for programming and to a severe reduction of the capacity of UNDP to pursue important ongoing projects or launch new programming initiatives in Haiti. Two important projects financed by UNDP (capacity-building within the Haitian National Police and support to penitentiary reform) will end in November 1998, unless additional financial resources are rapidly mobilized to extend their activities into 1999 and beyond. UNDP has recently launched an in-depth evaluation of its fifth-cycle programme as a first step towards formulating a new programme framework for the next three years.

27. The United Nations system in Haiti, represented by seven specialized agencies or programmes (the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Population Fund, the World Health Organization, the World Food Programme, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Children's Fund and UNDP), and the two United Nations missions (MIPONUH and MICIVIH), with the participation of the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the International Organization for Migration, have now embarked on a consultation process that is expected to lead to greater complementarity in advocacy and programming in line with ongoing United Nations reform. An inter-agency retreat organized from 13 to 15 May 1998 with participation of my Representative, the United Nations Resident Coordinator and the Head of MICIVIH resulted in the setting up of a theme group on population and environment (in addition to the already existing UNAIDS theme group), as well as working groups on health, education, food security, gender equity and employment, and a special group on the north-western region of the country where nearly all the agencies are concentrating their efforts. Drawing inspiration from the United Nations Development Assistance Framework process, the working groups will prepare sectoral reports and set up coordination mechanisms for ongoing activities, while the theme groups will promote advocacy and mobilize resources within the United Nations system, government and civil society to support population and environmental protection, and other activities. A follow-up inter-agency retreat is planned for October 1998 to assess progress within the theme groups and the sectoral working groups.

VII. OBSERVATIONS

28. I am deeply concerned that Haiti has not had a functioning Government for nearly one year. The continuing political crisis is having a destabilizing effect on this fledgling democracy, not least because elements of the Constitution are being ignored. Furthermore, the crisis is having severe repercussions on economic activity and is jeopardizing international assistance. As the Security Council stressed in its presidential statement of 25 March 1998 (S/PRST/1998/8), a prompt solution to the crisis would facilitate economic development and the provision of international assistance. Haitian political leaders must quickly take concrete steps to end the political deadlock, both with regard to the installation of a new government and the holding of free and fair elections to be organized by a new, credible Provisional Electoral Council, so that the country's fragile democracy can be consolidated and pressing

national issues resolved. An encouraging recent development in that regard is the initiation by President Préval of a dialogue with the main political forces represented in Parliament. I urge all the leaders to demonstrate their political will to reach a settlement through practical and constructive compromise.

29. The Haitian National Police continues to make steady progress towards improved effectiveness, despite its being subject to continuing political and financial pressures. However, continuing reports of human rights violations, corruption and other misconduct is cause for concern. Professionalizing the police has to be complemented by a functioning judicial system, for if the Haitian National Police is to function effectively it must do so within the context of a credible judicial system. I therefore again urge the Haitian authorities to move forward expeditiously in the area of judicial reform and call on the international community to provide the necessary assistance in that regard.

30. I would like to take this opportunity to thank my Representative and Head of MIPONUH, Mr. Julian Harston, and the Police Commissioner, Colonel Claude Grude, as well as international and local staff of the mission, for their dedication and efforts in support of United Nations activities in Haiti.

Annex

Composition of the United Nations Civilian Police Mission in Haiti as at 20 May 1998

Country	Special police unit	Substantive element
Argentina	140	6
Benin		6
Canada		23
France		36
India		4
Mali		20
Niger		5
Senegal		8
Togo		7
Tunisia		2
United States of America		28
Subtotal	140	145
Total		285

Map No. 4042 Rev. 1 UNITED NATIONS
May 1998

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Cartographic Section

UNITED
NATIONS

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General Assembly
Security Council

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A/53/131
S/1998/435
29 May 1998

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-third session
Items 10, 112, 113 and 157
of the preliminary list*
REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE
WORK OF THE ORGANIZATION
RIGHT OF PEOPLES TO SELF-DETERMINATION
HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS
MEASURES TO ELIMINATE INTERNATIONAL
TERRORISM

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-third year

Letter dated 27 May 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit copies of the following three resolutions adopted by the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Council on 21 March 1998:

(a) A resolution on the Jammu and Kashmir issue (see annex I);

(b) A resolution on Indian violations of the line of control in Jammu and Kashmir (see annex II);

(c) A resolution on Indian-sponsored terrorism in Pakistan (see annex III).

It is requested that the present letter and its annexes be circulated as official documents of the General Assembly, under items 10, 112, 113 and 157 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ahmad KAMAL
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* A/53/50.

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ANNEX I

Resolution on the Jammu and Kashmir issue

The Azad Jammu and Kashmir Council,

Recalling the relevant resolutions of the United Nations Security Council upholding the right to self-determination of the people of Jammu and Kashmir,

Recalling also the relevant resolutions of the Organization of the Islamic Conference on Jammu and Kashmir, in particular the Declaration of the Extraordinary Session of the Islamic Summit Conference held in Islamabad on 23 March 1997 and the Eighth Session of the Islamic Summit Conference held in Tehran from 9 to 11 December 1997,

Recalling further that the United Nations Security Council had declared that the creation of a Constituent Assembly or the holding of any elections in Jammu and Kashmir by the Indian Government cannot be a substitute for a free and impartial plebiscite mandated by the Security Council to determine the will of the people of Kashmir,

1. Strongly condemns the brutal use of force by the Indian armed forces in occupied Kashmir, which have claimed the lives of 60,000 Kashmiri men, women and children, the rape of thousands of women and the unlawful detention of tens of thousands of political prisoners and other tactics used by the Indian Government to suppress the indigenous struggle of the people of Jammu and Kashmir to secure their right to self-determination;

2. Also strongly condemns the inhuman crimes of genocide, massacres, extrajudicial and custodial killings, reprisal killings, arbitrary detention, torture, the use of rape as an instrument of suppression, the burning of houses, villages and townships, and the destruction and desecration of holy places committed by the Indian Government through its military and paramilitary personnel, renegades and mercenaries in occupied Kashmir during the past eight years;

3. Affirms that any political process or elections held under foreign occupation cannot be a substitute for the exercise of the right of self-determination by the people of Jammu and Kashmir as enshrined in the relevant resolutions of the Security Council;

4. Calls for the immediate holding of a plebiscite in Jammu and Kashmir in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the Security Council to enable the people to decide their future;

5. Calls upon India to withdraw its forces from Indian-held Kashmir and to put an immediate end to the massive violations of the human rights of the Kashmiri people;

6. Expresses support for the rejection by the All Parties Hurriyat Conference, the true representatives of the Kashmiri people, of the farcical political process and the puppet government installed in occupied Kashmir;

7. Pays homage to the thousands of Kashmiri martyrs who have laid down their lives for their just cause and expresses total solidarity with all Kashmiri families who have lost their loved ones in the cause of freedom;

8. Fully supports the efforts of the Government of Pakistan for a peaceful solution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute based on the wishes of its people, through all possible means, including a substantive and meaningful dialogue with India;

9. Expresses its appreciation to Member States of the Organization of the Islamic Conference for their steadfast support for the just cause of the Kashmiri people.

ANNEX II

Resolution on violations of the line of control in Jammu and Kashmir

The Azad Jammu and Kashmir Council,

Deeply concerned at the alarming increase in the number of unprovoked violations of the line of control by the Indian armed forces, which have become a regular feature along the line of control,

Conscious that unprovoked violations by Indian armed forces along the line of control further exacerbate tensions and instability in the region,

1. Strongly condemns the indiscriminate firing by the Indian army at the innocent civilian population residing inside Azad Jammu and Kashmir, which has resulted in a large number of civilian casualties;

2. Calls for an immediate end to violations of the line of control by Indian armed forces;

3. Calls upon India to allow the United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan to discharge its function of monitoring the line of control on both sides and in this regard urges the United Nations to increase the number of military observers deployed by the Observer Group;

4. Urges the international community, and in particular the United Nations, to persuade India to respect international commitments and to cease violations of the line of control forthwith;

5. Requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations to send a fact-finding mission to Azad Jammu and Kashmir to make an on-the-spot assessment of the losses caused by continuous violations of the line of control by the Indian armed forces.

ANNEX III

Resolution on Indian-sponsored terrorism in Pakistan

The Azad Jammu and Kashmir Council,

Recalling the recent spate of Indian-sponsored terrorist acts in Pakistan involving the bombings of a court in Sukkur and trains in Pattoki and Lahore,

Alarmed at the continuation of such terrorist activities by India against targets in Pakistan for the purpose of diverting the attention of the world from its repression in Kashmir as well as the attention of the Indian public from internal instability,

Reiterating the commitment to combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations,

Also reiterating its call for observance of the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations and international norms proscribing international terrorism,

Affirming the determination to combat Indian subversion and terrorism directed against the sovereignty, territorial integrity, stability and security of Pakistan,

1. Strongly condemns Indian-sponsored terrorism in Pakistan, which has led to the tragic loss of innocent lives and damage to property;

2. Calls upon the world community of nations to condemn those terrorist acts;

3. Urges the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the permanent Members of the United Nations Security Council to prevail upon and persuade the Government of India to desist from spreading terrorism in Pakistan.